A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, November 3. 1709.

I Have in some of my late Papers given you some Warnings about the Plague and Famine, that are now in their Turn visiting the *North* of *Europe*——— Indeed I think, I need say little more about the Peace of the *North*—— The Prince of Kings seems to be going a Way to work with those Potentates, as will most effectually keep the Peace among them: I cannot but think, the King of *Prussia*, a wise, and religious, as well as a generous Prince, will find but little Inclination to a War with *Sweden*, if the Plague breaks in upon his Dominions, as we see it has begun to do in a terrible manner——— Our last Advices from those Parts tell us, (*as our* Gazette *expresses it*) That the Plague rages in *Koningsberg*, the Capital of the *Brandenburgh Prussia*. If GOD goes on to visit *Europe* in this manner, he will reduce them all to Peace; and really it must be own'd, it seems strange, the People on that side can talk of War, and invading one another, when this dreadful Enemy is invading them all—By the most modest Computation I can make from the publick Accounts, about 50000 People have dy'd in the City of *Dantzick*, 17000 in *Warsaw*, and unknown Numbers in the Country about—— What Havock it will make in *Koningsberg*, GOD only knows, and whither it will spread from thence.

I will tell you no more of the Probabilities of its reaching among us——It is most true,

true, that we want some extraordinary Methods to reconcile us in *Europe*, but especially in this Island, where our Feuds tend to the destroying, not the late-made Union only, but even all Sorts of Union among us——GOD grant we may be made Friends, and united by some less terrible Means than that of a Plague.

Famine, as I have noted, has been a Forerunner of this Distemper in many Parts—— And great Endeavours have been made to perswade us, that we have had a Dearth among us—when we have not—— I have indeed with some Warmth complain'd of this, and laid the Fault in part upon the Justices of the Peace in the Country not doing their Duty——— I appeal to all, that can consider and read this Paper impartially, whether it was not enough to move any reasonable Man's Passion, and whether it might not plead a full Excuse for me in my reproaching the Neglect of Justice, in the Persons to whom Justice was committed in *England*, to hear from *London*, that Corn was at three times the Price it us'd to be. Let them consider I have travell'd thro' the Heart of *England* quite to *Edinburgh*, besides some Deviations upon the Road; that in every Place I saw Corn enough, in many Places extraordinary Crops, and in no Place a Dearth, or any thing like it—— And that yet I should find Corn rise in this manner!

I saw manifestly, that it was owing to Corn-Jobbing, to Trick-Artifice, and meer Craft of Buyers and Sellers———And this again to the Omissions of those, whose Duty and Office it was to prevent it, and to cure it—— To this Work, I found it a Duty to alarm them, I hope, it has in part done it. And the effectual Application of the Justices of Peace of *Middlesex* to this Work is both a Testimony of the Need there is, that all the Justices in *England* should follow their happy Example; and also an Evidence, that if they did so, the Price of Corn would presently fall among us.

I am told, a new Author in Town charges me with attempting to raise the Mobb for this Work—I abhor Mobbs, Tumult and Riot were never my Element, nor has any thing, I ever wrote in my Life, tended towards Rabble; I have had my Share in suppressing Rabbles, and preventing them, as at *Coventry*, at *Edinburgh*, and elsewhere—May they that love Mobbs try them as I have done—— But pressing the Magistrates to do this Work can never be exciting the Mobb—If I know any thing, it is the Way to prevent the Mobb——— And really, the Justices omitting to do this Work, is the readiest Way in the World to bring the Rabble to do it for them—— For the Poor are the People most sensibly pinch'd by the Dearness of Corn, and they ever clamour loudest, and rise soonest, when they want Bread—— Hunger is very importuning, and the poor People are generally but too forward to raise Tumults in such Cases.

To prevent this, it is the Work of the Magistrates to redress the Wrong, and put the Laws in Execution—— Now, that this was not done, is most plain; since no sooner did our Justices in *Middlesex* begin—and Indictments and Presentments are made against the Engrossers, Fore-stallers, &c. but the Effect was plain—Corn immediately fell—— The Blessing of the Poor, and of him that was ready to perish, be upon ye all, among the Magistracy that put your Hands to this Work———And assure your selves, prevent but engrossing and withholding Corn in and from the Markets—— You will soon find, Plenty, and a cheap Price will follow——— For as certain—as that the Sun is in the Firmament, you are so far from a real Scarcity in *England*, that ye have a vast and inexhaustible Store—— And for *Scotland*—I am now upon the Spot, and do assure you—not from my own Observation only, but from the general Opinion, they have had more Corn this Year, (and a better Season for curing and getting it in also) than they had both the preceding Years—— And yet either of those Years were counted plentiful, and Corn was sold very cheap all the while.

All our Dearness then is an Alarm of Want, and [illegible] it was a false Alarm———— I would, to conclude it, only recommend two Things to you all in *England*; *First*, That all the Justices would follow

follow the Example of thoſe in *Middleſex*, and carefully put the Laws in Execution, than which nothing can contribute more to the Relief of the poor People—and they will ſoon ſee the Markets ſupply'd——— *Secondly*, That you would reflect, how unthankful it is to the bountiful Hand of our Maker, who has given us Plenty, when our Neighbours are diſtreſs'd, that we ſhould make a Sort of ſham Scarcity among our ſelves, as if he could not with Eaſe viſit us with Scarcity at his Pleaſure.

And thus I end my Remarks upon this Subject——— If any think, I have been too rude with our Magiſtrates, *my Anſwer is ſhort*, I reverence Authority as much as any Man—— and am not for reviling the Rulers of the People——— But I cannot but ſay, and I ſpeak it with Concern, ſo many of our Immoralities and Inconveniencies lie at the Door of our Juſtices of the Peace, either in their Neglect to puniſh at all, Partiality where they do puniſh, or dreadful Example, That I entreat the Remarker of this Paper, not to put me to the Neceſſity of vindicating the Warmth I have ſhewn, by expoſing the Nakedneſs of this Nation in thoſe Particulars; when they reform their own Practice and Example, I'll be the firſt that ſhall do them Honour; but GOD forbid, I ſhould ceaſe to cry out of that, which I am ſure cries *elſewhere* for a ſpeedy Regulation, or threatens with a terrible Animadverſion.

MISCELLANEA.

I Cannot but ſubjoyn to this Paper a ſhort Obſervation to a new Author, who has entertain'd us a-while upon the Subject of regulating the Preſs— It ſeems ſtrange to me, to ſee that Gentleman poſitively load the WHIG—with an Averſion to ſuch a Law—whereas I dare ſay, if a reaſonable Propoſal were made in Parliament for ſuch a Law, there would not be one *Whig* againſt it——— It is true, this is no Argument— But the Caſe is plain, it is ſo juſt a Law, ſo conſonant to Liberty, ſo agreeable to a Revolution-Principle, ſo conſiderable an Article in Defence of Property, that no *Whig* can be againſt it—without ceaſing to be what we call a *Whig*, that is, a Man careful of preſerving Property——— And therefore I recommend it to that Gentleman at his next Conference with his imaginary Club, to examine, who they were who dropt the laſt Bill in the Houſe, I mean, who privately declin'd it, and ſo procur'd it to be dropt.

Now, if he does not find, theſe were either the *High* Party, or ſome Perſons concern'd in Patents and limitted Properties, who, the Act being but Temporary, thought their Property would at the End of the Term be laid more open than it was before—— If, I ſay, he does not find, theſe were the Men that were the Cauſe of that Miſcarriage, then I am miſtaken— And if he does, then he is partial and unjuſt, in telling us the *Whigs* will oppoſe it.

The Truth is, it has hitherto been neither a *Whig* or a *Tory* Caſe——but a meer Piece of Bookſellers Conduct——— The Practice is the Shame and Scandal of the preſent Time—and gives a Liberty to daily Invaſions of Property equal in Villany, to robbing a Houſe, or plundering an Hoſpital. Nor is this all; it is a Diſcouragement to Induſtry, a Diſhonour to Learning, and a Cheat upon the whole Nation. By this Practice, a Man, who has ſtudy'd ſeveral Years to perform the moſt elaborate Work; has perhaps been at 500 *l.* Charge to print it, beſides all the other Pains, and to whom ſuch a Work might otherwiſe be an Inheritance, and to his Family, has his Labour deſtroy'd, his Expences loſt, and his Copy re-printed by ſham and pyratical Bookſellers and Printers, who eat the Gain of the poor Man's Labour, deſtroy and ſpoil the Work it ſelf, cheat the Buyer by performing it imperfect, and ruin the laborious Author.

Upon

Upon this Account I with ſo much Deteſtation abhor the Practice, that I aſſure the Gentlemen, if ever they pleaſe to attempt ſo good a Work, as the Regulation of the Preſs, they ſhall not fail of all my Aſſiſtance, both as to Labour and Charge.

Nor let them ſuggeſt, that the *Review*, or other *Whig* Authors, are afraid to be ſilenc'd and put down—The Thing is juſt contrary; either the *Whigs* write with and for the Government, or the *Jacobites* do; now if the *Whigs* write on the ſide of or with the Government, why ſhould they be afraid to be firſt put down; let them anſwer that—and then I ſhall tell them, that I am moſt heartily for having both ſides put down———and that this Pen and Ink Rabble may be on both ſides ſuppreſs'd—And this is not the firſt Time that I have offer'd—tho' not at all afraid of the Cauſe, to lay down the *Review*, or turn it wholly and ſingly to the Subject of Commerce, in which I could pleaſe you all—And could I ſee the Day, when we ſhould have no more of this Paper War; I would be the firſt ſhould teſtifie my publick Joy.

Now, concurring thus with theſe Gentlemen in the main Point, if they pleaſe to give me leave to offer them Methods too for the doing it, I ſhall be very much their humble Servant.

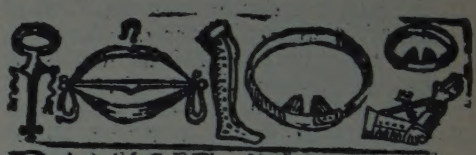
ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE United Creditors for Debts Contracted in the three laſt Reigns, that met formerly at *Weſtminſter*, are adjourn'd to the *Marine Coffee-Houſe* in *Birchin Lane* near the *Royal-Exchange*, where Attendance is given Six Days in the Week, from Eleven to Three, to receive Thoſe that will unite with them—— They have diſcover'd the Ways and Means by which they hope to diſcharge theſe Debts, to Three of the moſt Judicious Creditors, and they have declar'd their entire Satisfaction both in the Quality and Quantity of their Funds———Perſons of Quality may be attended at their Houſes without Charge, by ſending a Note to the *Coffee-Houſe* directed to the Solicitor for the Debts of King *William*, &c.

Juſt Publiſh'd,

THE Monthly Miſcellany, or Memoirs for the Curious, for *June*, 1709. Vol. III. Containing, A Catalogue of Foſſils found in divers Parts of *Kent*. *Hortorum Anglicanorum Delicia*. Of *American* Plants cultivated in our *Gardens* in *England*. Papilionaceous or Pea-Bloom Plants. Coniferous and Juliferous Trees. An Abridgment of *Iſaac de Pereyra*'s Hiſtory of the *Pre-Adamites*; with Remarks thereupon: Mahla Self-determining Creature. Of Faith and Works: Of Juſtification, &c. Fragments of the Book of *Enoch*; tranſlated from the *Latin* Verſion of *Kircher*'s *Egyptian* Oedipus. Printed for *James Woodward*, in St. *Chriſtopher*'s Church-Yard, *Threadneedle-Street*; and Sold by *John Morphew*, near *Stationers-Hall*.

N. B. *Thoſe for* July *will be publiſh'd on* Tueſday, Novemb. 15. *And the Reſt with all poſſible Speed.*



BARTLETT's Inventions for the Cure of Ruptures, which have gain'd ſo Univerſal Eſteem, are now, yet farther Improv'd to ſo great a Nicety, that one of his Steel Spring Truſſes of the largeſt Size, ſeldom Exceeds 4 ounces in Weight, and one of the ſmalleſt rarely exceeds a quarter of an Ounce, and are ſo well adapted to the ſhapes of human Bodies, that they are extraordinary eaſy even to New-born Infants, and Intirely keep up the Ruptures of what Bigneſs ſoever. Alſo divers Inſtruments to help the Weak and Crooked. By P. Bartlett at the Golden Ball by the Ship Tavern in Preſcot-Street in Goodmans Fields, London.

N. B. His Mother, the Widow of the late Mr. *Chriſtopher Bartlett*, lives at the Place above-mention'd, and is very ſkilful in the Buſineſs of her own Sex.